CHARIS YOUTH

Series: Honor: God's Key To Success

Lesson 4: Don't Trade Your Honor For Offense

About This Lesson

Social media normalizes being offended by others and encourages offense as a justification for dishonoring people. God instructs us to pursue peace and holiness, which foster honor rather than offense. Choosing to dishonor, adopt negativity, and act with pride blocks God's blessings. When young people opt to live with honor, that decision leads to revelation, financial growth, and God's favor. Following Jesus' example of honor helps us achieve success in life.

Key Takeaway: Choose to be a person of honor, not offense.

Key Verse: Hebrews 12:14 *Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord.*

Teaching Outline:

I. STAY AWAY FROM BAD TRADES!

A. Don't trade your honor for offense. It's always a terrible trade!
Hebrews 12:14–17 *Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord: [15] looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled; [16] lest there be any fornicator or profane person like Esau, who for one morsel of food sold his birthright. [17] For you know that afterward, when he wanted to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no place for repentance, though he sought it diligently with tears.*

B. You can be a person of honor and carry honor wherever you go, but people can also carry offense. An attitude of offense will hinder you. People who carry

offense go around looking for reasons to be offended—and they will always find them!

1. Decide that you won't be offended! Let go of things quickly and think, "They didn't mean it that way!"
2. Offense will come, but decide that you won't be defiled or thrown off course by it.

C. Choose to be a person of honor, not offense.

II. ONE REASON PEOPLE MISS GOD'S VISITATION

A. A visitation is an appointed time! God is trying to bring something to pass, to grow you, and to bring you into your destiny—this often happens through practicing honor in our relationships!
   1. One main reason people miss this visitation is because it seems ordinary. Something seems familiar. Something seems not that important, not that valuable, and not that honorable.

   2. Watch out for the sin of familiarity! In Mark 6:1–6, we read that the people in Jesus' hometown and family were familiar with Jesus and did not honor Him.

B. Don't be offended at your shame, guilt, or condemnation.
   1. That's like being too familiar with yourself. Trust God that He can use you, shape you, transform you, and work through you.
   2. If you become too familiar with your flaws and limitations, you will hinder God's power in your life.

C. Familiarity is to treat something as common.
   1. God spoke to Peter before he was to go minister to Cornelius and his house.
      Acts 10:15 *And a voice spoke to him again the second time, "What God has cleansed you must not call common."*

D. When you become familiar with someone, the enemy will try to dupe you into becoming offended. When you're offended, you will separate yourself. You will try to get others to separate with you and be offended with you.

E. Recognize when you start to feel offended and replace it with praising and honoring God.

III. A LACK OF HONOR WILL CAUSE A LACK OF FAITH

A. You need to honor the people God places in your life: Jesus, parents, family, pastors, coaches, teachers, friends, and neighbors.

B. We need to honor people the way Jesus has honored us! That's when the Spirit flows.

C. Honor God by taking time to build a relationship with Him.
   1. Pray
   2. Read and study the Bible
   3. Go to church

D. Honor is God's key to success in life!

Bottom Line:
We need the people of God and God-given relationships in our lives. We treat these relationships with honor and choose not to be offended.

Small Group Time:

1. In 1 Corinthians 12:23, we read, *"And those members of the body which we think to be less honorable, on these we bestow greater honor."*
Jesus is the greatest example of treating people who are less honorable (less valuable in people's opinion) and making them extremely valuable! He takes broken lives and makes them whole! He takes people with ordinary lives and gives them an abundant life! You, too, can honor people like Jesus does! You can add value to people's lives! You can make them feel and realize that they are very valuable!

- How can you add value to your parents? (make them feel like they are better parents)
- How can you add value to your teachers? (make them feel like they are better teachers)

- How can you add value to your spiritual leaders/pastors? (make them feel like they are better leaders/pastors)
- How can you add value to your friends? (make them feel like they are better friends)

2. The power of a series on honor comes when you faithfully apply it to your life and begin the habit of honoring people. That's when you will experience true success in life.

- What impacted you the most about the topic of honor?
- Who have you honored, and how did it affect that person? How did if affect you?

Declaration:

"I choose to be a person of honor, not offense."

Youth Weekly Journal:

Handout, Email, or Download

- **Question:** Who is it hardest to show honor to, and what can you do to change that?
- **Pray:** Ask God to bring opportunities to model honor for your siblings and peers so that you can be an example of giving honor to others.
- **Read:** Read 1 Peter 3:14–16. Write down what the Holy Spirit is speaking to you from this passage about honoring Christ and responding with respect.
- **Live It:** When you honor people this week, watch for their reactions. At first, people might be surprised. The goal is for honor to be so natural and what people expect from you, that they don't react with surprise. Also, honoring people should become a habit and not something that you have to make yourself think about and do.
- **Create:** Take the letters in H-O-N-O-R and write them down the middle of a paper. Write five sentences that summarize what you learned about honor. Arrange them so they connect in some way with the letters, such as the H might be part of "I learned to Honor my parents by listening and looking at them when they talk."

EXTENDING THE LESSON

Icebreaker Question: What's the best piece of advice you've been given, and who was it from?

Opening Activity Suggestion: Spend time in worship with songs that talk about honoring God, how holy He is, and bringing our worship and praise to God because He deserves it.

Opening Affirmation: "Honor is not an option; it is essential. I will honor God, God's Word, and God's leaders. I will choose to honor the people God has placed in my life."

Giving Time: Acts 20:32–33 *"So now, brethren, I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified. [33] I have coveted no one's silver or gold or apparel. "*

The antidote for covetousness is giving! When you give, you show that covetousness doesn't have a hold on you. God is your source and will supply what you need—don't covet—just give!

BEYOND – ADDITIONAL APPLICATION FOR CHURCH OR HOME

Challenge: Have the youth take an "I choose not to be offended" vow for the week. Help them develop a habit of recognizing when they are feeling offended and what triggers them to be offended. When they recognize the thoughts that lead toward feeling offended, have them verbalize, "I choose not to be offended."

Biblical Worldview: In today's society, people choose to get easily offended and demand their view be accepted and not questioned. The result is that people choose silence rather than confronting or responding to the offended person. The Bible tells us to honor people, whether they are right or not. When we have a biblical worldview, we remember that people are made in the image of God, and that's why they can be honored, even when they don't reflect that image very well. We don't have to change

people or their attitudes; that's the Holy Spirit's job. We just have to love people, and showing honor is a huge part of loving them.

Outreach/Missions: One major reason missionaries leave the mission field is that they become offended by other missionaries on their team, the people they serve, or their sending organization. Have the names of the missionaries your church supports and distribute them so each youth has a missionary to pray for. Spend time praying that the missionaries choose not to be offended and decide to honor everyone.